



# News Release

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
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**Release 2002-6**

**DECLINING GROUND WATER LEVELS**  
**PROMPTS MT. HOME AREA MEETING**

For Immediate Release  
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Declining ground water levels in the Mountain Home area of Elmore County has state water managers wondering whether or not additional ground water development should be allowed in the area or even if present water uses should be reduced. And they want to hear what residents in the area have to say about the issue, officials with the Department of Water Resources said today.

IDWR and the Mountain Home Ground Water Advisory Committee have set a special public meeting for February 11 to discuss the issue. It will be February 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Home Senior Center, 1000 North Third East.

“Ground water levels are declining significantly in portions of Elmore County near the City of Mountain Home, the Mountain Home Air Force Base and in the area of Cinder Cone Butte. These declines raise the question whether there is sufficient water to support additional development or even to sustain current uses,” said Gary Spackman, IDWR Western Region Manager.

The meeting is a chance for IDWR and the Ground Water Advisory Committee to explain possible limitations in the ground water supplies and to solicit community input in developing a management plan to address the limitations.

“If there is a limited supply of water, future users may not be able to divert additional ground water. Furthermore, there may need to be some cut backs in existing uses,” Spackman said. The Committee has written the framework of the plan but the details must still be developed.

Officials say they especially encourage attendance of rural domestic water users or owners of rural land who may want to subdivide their property into large acreage residential lots that require drilling of a domestic well.

For more information about the meeting please contact Gary Spackman at 334-2190. The meeting will be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in or understand the meeting, please contact Spackman in advance so arrangements can be made.